



1995

## SEAALL Bylaw Revision Materials, 1995

SEAALL

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DATE: April 19, 1995  
FROM: Reba Best, SEAALL Bylaws Chair  
TO: Carol Nicholson, Joyce Janto, and Kathy Heberer  
SUBJECT: Proposed changes to the Bylaws & Articles

Please look over the proposed changes and make sure I've included everything we talked about at the Board Meeting. If you want to change the wording or add additional justifications for the changes, let me know that also. If it is possible, I would like your responses by tomorrow since I will be out of town April 21-25. I need to get this to Rhea before the first of May. I had in my notes to change to date of balloting from March to Feb. with the ballots back by Feb. 15. However, I didn't include "back by Feb 15" in the bylaws because I thought maybe that proposed date should be in the handbook since we didn't originally include a return date in our bylaws. Let me know what you think. I can easily change it.

Thanks for your help.

rabest@utkvx.utk.edu  
Fax: (615) 974-6571  
Phone: (615) 974-6728

THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO THE BYLAWS AND ARTICLES OF THE SOUTHEASTERN CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES ARE PROPOSED TO (1) BRING OUR BYLAWS INTO COMPLIANCE WITH THE ACTUAL PRACTICE OF THE CHAPTER CONCERNING OUR FISCAL YEAR; (2) FACILITATE THE TRANSITION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES; AND, (3) EXTEND FULL MEMBERSHIP TO LIBRARIES IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

(Bylaws Committee, Chair--Reba Best, 5/1/95)

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE  
BYLAWS  
SOUTHEASTERN CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN  
ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES

Article I: Membership

Section 2. Attributes of Membership

b. Dues

4. The fiscal year shall coincide with that of the American Association of Law Libraries.

**PROPOSED CHANGE**

Article I, Section 2, b

4. The fiscal year of the Southeastern Chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries shall be April 1 - March 31.

**REASON:** AALL's fiscal year is Oct-Sept. According to our treasurer, April 1 - March 31 is the fiscal year that SEAALL has been adhering to for many years and is the fiscal year reported to the IRS. This change would bring our bylaws into compliance with the actual practice of the chapter.

\*\*\*\*\*

Article III. Nominations and Elections

Section 1.

a. Nominating Committee

The president shall appoint a nominating committee who shall submit names of the candidate or candidates for each of the following offices by March 1 in the year which the officer is elected.

Section 2. Method of Election

The vice-president -- president elect shall be elected by mail ballot in May of each year. The secretary shall be elected by mail ballot in May of each even year. The treasurer shall be elected by mail ballot in May of each odd-numbered year. The candidates receiving the largest number of votes shall be declared elected. The membership is to be notified by the secretary of the outcome of the election by mail or at a meeting of the Chapter.

Article VI: Officers

Section 1. Officers

[Paragraph 7]

All officers shall be installed at the conclusion of the Chapter meeting following their election or appointment and serve until their successors are elected or appointed, and qualified.

**PROPOSED CHANGES**

Article III, Section 1a

Change date of nominations from March 1 to November 1.

Article III, Section 2

Change date of balloting from May to February.

**REASON:** This change would allow the new officers to assume office at the end of our annual SEAALL chapter meeting, rather than at the end of our chapter meeting at the AALL convention. The new officers, especially the incoming vice-president, will then have a full year for planning for the next year's convention and there will also be sufficient time to get the new officers on the AALL mailing list to receive the pre-convention mailings in a timely manner. This change will also strengthen the work of our committees because they can be appointed soon after our annual chapter meeting, have an opportunity to meet at the AALL convention, and have a full year to accomplish their work.

\*\*\*\*\*

PROPOSED ADDITION TO  
ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION  
OF THE SOUTHEASTERN CHAPTER OF  
THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES, INC

Article IV: Members (paragraph 3)

The Southeastern region includes Puerto Rico and the following states: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia and such other states as may be added.

**PROPOSED ADDITION**

Add District of Columbia to the Southeastern region.

**REASON:** DC librarians can currently join SEAALL only as Associate members because they are not included in our region. They pay the same dues as a full member, have the right to vote, and have the right to receive all Chapter publications. They do not have the right to hold office. Several DC librarians have expressed a strong interest in becoming full members of SEAALL. Since they are not radically outside our geographical area, have expressed a strong interest in being given the opportunity to be full members, and since the Chapter always needs members who are willing to take on responsibilities in the Chapter, we are proposing that the District of Columbia be added to the Southeastern region.

## FAX TRANSMISSION



University of North Carolina  
Kathrine R. Everett Law Library  
CB # 3385  
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3385  
Phone # (919) 962-1191  
Fax # (919) 962-1193

TO: Reba Best

FAX #: 615 974-6571

FROM: Carol Avery Nicholson

PHONE: (919) 962-1199

DATE: 4-19-95 TOTAL PAGES: 3  
(including cover sheet)

NOTES: Reba,

It looks fine to me with the changes noted.  
As I recall, we agreed not to be more specific  
about the Feb. date in the Bylaws, so your note  
are correct. I also prefer your format to the  
proposed suggestion that an explanation be provided at  
the beginning. Sorry for the handwritten note, but  
I've got too many deadlines right now.

but I added a brief intro. para

Thanks again for taking  
this on!

Carol

If you did not receive all of the pages, or if any portions of the transmission are illegible, please contact us at (919) 962-1191.



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*have an opportunity to meet at the AALL convention, at the start*

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*The following changes to the Articles and Bylaws of the .... were proposed to facilitate the transition of officers and committees, and extend full memberships to libraries in the District of Columbia.*



# Florida State University Law Library

TO:

*Carol*



Congrats  
on your  
election to  
AALL Board

DATE:

*7-3-95*

FROM:

*Alva*

☒ For your information

☐ For your file

☐ For your comment

☐ For your approval

☐ Please see me

☐ Do not return

☐ Other:

☐ Per our conversation

☐ Please return

☐ For your action

☐ I have seen

☐ Please forward

☐ Please copy

*I'm sorry I won't see you in  
Pittsburgh ... I've got a Stone Family  
Reunion scheduled for the same week (in Ohio)!  
Good Luck!*





Alva T. Stone, Head of Cataloging  
Law Library  
Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL 32306-1043

904-644-2881  
atstone@law.fsu.edu

July 3, 1995

Reba A. Best  
Head of Cataloging  
Univ. of Tennessee Law Library  
1505 W. Cumberland Ave.  
Knoxville, TN 37996-1800

Dear Reba,

I am writing to you in your capacity as Chair of the Bylaws Committee of the **Southeastern Chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries (SEAALL)**. I wish to respond particularly to the current proposal to amend the SEAALL Articles of Incorporation in order to add the District of Columbia to the Southeastern region.

I am opposed to this suggestion, for the following reasons.

1) The Southeastern region as currently defined already includes 11 states and Puerto Rico. This is one of the largest chapters in AALL. If the "need [for] members who are willing to take on responsibilities in the Chapter" is a problem, I believe that we ought to consider all possible ways for solving that problem, rather than just assuming that adding the D.C. librarians will do the trick.

2) One factor given in the printed reasoning for this proposal is that the District of Columbia is "not radically outside our geographical area." But by this reasoning, why should we not also consider other places that border our present boundaries? e.g., Maryland, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Arkansas and Texas?

3) It was said that "several D.C. librarians have expressed a strong interest in becoming full members of SEAALL," i.e., having the right to hold office. Have we received a petition with many signatures? Or was this just three or four D.C. librarians? (Inquiring minds want to know.)

4) SEAALL encompasses many metropolitan areas or states that also have their own AALL chapter. For example: New Orleans, Atlanta, Virginia, South Florida, and now also Alabama. Members who live or work in these places may belong to two chapters--SEAALL and the local chapter. This broadens a member's opportunity for involvement, but may also put a drain on human resources, in that the local chapter and the regional one are competing for the same persons who are ready to be actively involved. The D.C. librarians already have a fine chapter, **The Law Librarians' Society of Washington, D.C.**, which has an excellent newsletter and a reputation for good programs at its annual meetings. Not only that, but it appears that many of the D.C. librarians are also eligible for full membership in either the Virginia Association of Law Libraries (VALL) or the Law Library Association of Maryland (LLAM). If we approve the proposed amendment, we will be making more members eligible for membership in three (3) chapters? Would this be a good idea?

5) Finally, I feel that we need to adopt some kind of objective criteria for what is meant by the "Southeastern" region. If we define it as the more eastern states that formed the Confederate States of America in 1860/61, then this would definitely not include the District of Columbia (my birthplace, and I'm proud to say so!). But then neither would it include West Virginia (yankee state formed in 1863) or Kentucky (neutral during the war between the states).

Another possible criterion of a historical nature is the **Mason and Dixon Line**. The line was drawn in the 18th century to settle a dispute over the boundary between Maryland and Pennsylvania, and has generally been extended to the Ohio River. If we embrace the tradition which holds that everything below the Mason and Dixon line is "The South," then yes, we could say that the District of Columbia falls within the geographic Southern U.S. But so would Maryland, and to be fair, we probably should add the Maryland librarians to full-member eligibility.

How does the U.S. government define "Southeast"? Well, they don't define it ... not exactly, anyway. In its statistical reports, the U.S. Bureau of the Census groups 16 states and D.C. into a superregion called "The South," and further subdivides them thus:

SOUTH ATLANTIC = West Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, D.C., Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida.

EAST SOUTH CENTRAL = Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, and Alabama.

WEST SOUTH CENTRAL = Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Texas.

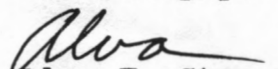
Now, if we were to combine the south Atlantic and the east south central states, to arrive at "The Southeast," it would mean eliminating Louisiana, but adding three new areas to our chapter: D.C., Maryland, and Delaware!

Another possible factor might be: Are there any bordering states that have law librarians who are NOT eligible for full membership (with rights to hold office) in at least one AALL chapter? D.C. and Maryland have their own chapters, but what about Delaware--are they considered part of the Greater Philadelphia chapter?

In the final analysis, I believe that this proposal raises some difficult questions, and that we ought to vote "no" at this point. Perhaps after some further study, more compelling reasons might be presented for adding the D.C. librarians to the SEAALL primary region. Or, to follow more objective criteria for geographic divisioning, a different amendment may be proposed which includes Maryland, or Maryland and Delaware, as well as the District of Columbia. (Some might want Louisiana to go to S-W-A-Double Hockeysticks!)

Sorry if my comments are going to muddy the water, but I thought I should share my misgivings about this.

Sincerely yours,

  
Alva T. Stone

xc: Carol Avery Nicholson